

Severing normal trade relations with China would disrupt the process of social change. This action would hurt the people we really want to help, like the citizens of Hong Kong and the Chinese who now owe their livelihood not to the mercy of the Chinese state but to their own contribution to the free market system. Now is not the time to walk away from our ability to promote change.

Severing normal trade relations with China would also harm American workers, American unions and American businesses. I have recently spoken with aerospace workers and union leaders who disagree with the anti-trade position of their national organizations and who support continued trade with China. They fear that, if Congress chooses to raise trade barriers, American businesses will lose the China airplane market to Airbus and thousands of good, hard-working Americans will lose their jobs without any real change in Chinese policy. The union workers' arguments are persuasive. In 1980, the farmers of Washington State were devastated by a futile attempt to change Soviet policy with a unilateral grain embargo. I hope we will not be destructive and short-sighted as we once again contemplate unilateral trade sanctions. We owe it to the workers and farmers of Washington State and this Nation to learn from the painful, embarrassing experience of 1980 and refrain from adopting more unilateral sanctions.

Finally, severing normal trade relations with China would impose costs on American consumers. The Congressional Research Service has recently estimated that denying China MFN status would cost American families 27 to 29 billion dollars in higher prices. This resolution of disapproval represents a hidden tax on my constituents, fewer jobs for my State and, most important, less freedom for the people of China. I support normal trade relations with China and I hope to work with my colleagues to develop constructive policies which expand freedom in China and convince China's leaders to change their behavior.

REGARDING COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it's ironic, the proximity of the Fourth of July and Cost of Government Day. Of course the national celebration recalling our independence is a day to ponder the blessings of liberty.

Cost of Government Day, however, is quite the opposite, a dramatic reminder of just how much freedom Americans have relinquished to the excesses of big government and profligate spending. This year, Cost of Government Day falls on July 3d.

A somber event, Cost of Government Day occurs later and later each year. The date is determined by calculating the number of days Americans must work in order to earn enough money to pay for the government. This year, it will take 183 days of work to afford to pay for Federal, State, and local taxes and regulatory costs.

The total cost of government in 1997 is estimated at \$3.52 trillion, up from \$3.38 trillion in

1996. This expense translates into a burden averaging \$13,500.00 for every man, woman and child.

If that's not enough to make your sparkler fizzle, think about this: Even with the celebrated balanced budget Congress is forgoing, the Federal Government will spend \$19.2 trillion over the next 10 years and after that, spending for the following ten years is projected to surge to \$29.3 trillion.

Many people think their April 15th tax payment satisfies their civic toll. Unfortunately, it's just the beginning. In addition to taxes, there is a plethora of regulations and government programs which only increase consumer costs, reduce job opportunities, waste valuable time, suppress productivity, and control our lives. The estimated total cost of government regulations for 1997 is \$688 billion which is a 25 percent increase since 1988.

What would Thomas Jefferson, or John Adams say about the government they helped design if they could see it today? Suppose you were to observe the pair discussing the matter over dinner at your favorite neighborhood eatery. According to the Americans for Tax Reform Foundations, \$11.00 of their \$40.00 restaurant bill goes directly to taxes. The remaining \$29.00 covers all other costs of preparing and serving the meal.

The taxes on meals includes federal, state, and local income taxes, Social Security taxes, property taxes, unemployment insurance taxes, workers compensation taxes, utility taxes, licensing fees, and possibly other taxes depending on the state.

In addition to taxes, the restaurant has to deal with various regulatory agencies like OHSA, EPA, IRS, USDA, BATF, NLRB, the local health department, zoning and licensing boards, and more. After that, the proprietor pays his suppliers, his staff, the mortgages, and if he's lucky, he'll have a little left over for himself.

Surely the Signers of the Declaration of Independence has something much different in mind on July 4, 1776, when they affirmed, "Prudence, indeed will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same objective evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

Fortunately, our founding heroes designed a system allowing us to throw off the yoke of bondage peaceably, at the ballot box. For this reason, the Fourth of July is a festive celebration overshadowing Cost of Government Day.

Taken together, the back-to-back occasions should serve as a clarion call to those of us who still believe the America dream is worth preserving. Indeed, our Forefathers waged a revolution against far less than American taxpayers are willing to tolerate today.

Independence Day should be our parapet, a demarcation beyond which the cost of government must not intrude. Our objective in Congress, should be to dramatically relieve the tax burden on American families so as to increase economic freedom and to honor life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as the provi-

dential birthright of all citizens who revel in our glorious independence.

IN HONOR OF THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Philippine American Society of Ohio [PASO] as the group inaugurates the PASO Cultural and Civic Center on June 29, 1997.

PASO was founded in 1967 with the purpose of uniting all Filipinos in the Cleveland area. The handful of pioneers has grown over the past 30 years into a solid organization which embraces cultural, civic, social, and humanitarian programs.

Since World War II, Filipinos, mostly professionals, emigrated to America in the thousands. The Filipino population in the Cleveland area is estimated to be close to 3,000 families. The rich traditions of Philippine culture in Cleveland continue to flourish with the help of PASO. In 1985, PASO purchased a 4.9 acre piece of land on which these visionaries hoped to build a Cultural Center. On June 29, after many years of hard work and fundraising, the organization will celebrate the groundbreaking for its Cultural and Civic Center in Parma, OH.

With the completion of the Cultural Center, PASO will be able to hold more events and activities in order to better accomplish the goals and objectives of the organization. My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring PASO in its efforts to keep the Philippine culture alive in Cleveland.

TESTIMONY OF PETE STARK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the '04' Record recent testimony I presented to President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protections and Quality in the Health Care Industry. The need for consumer protections in managed care is great—I urge my colleagues to pass legislation to protect the millions of patients in managed care plans:

TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK BEFORE THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND QUALITY IN THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

Secretary Shalala, Secretary Herman, and Members of the Commission: Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony concerning critically needed consumer protections for the millions of Americans in managed care plans.

BACKGROUND

Health care consumers who entrust their lives to managed care plans have consistently found that many plans are more interested in profits than in providing appropriate care. In the process of containing costs patients are often harmed. My constituent mail has been full of horror stories explaining the abuses that occur at the hands of HMOs and other forms of managed care.